

City of Springdale Council

November 15, 2023

Vice President of Council Hawkins called Council to order on November 15, 2023

The governmental body and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. McNear provided the Invocation.

Mrs. McNear took roll call. Council members Anderson, Ghantous, Hawkins, Jacobs, Ramirez, and Sullivan-Wisecup were present. Mr. Vanover was absent.

Vice President Hawkins: Mr. Vanover had indicated that he is travelling and making his best efforts to try to get here, but he's probably just landed about half an hour ago, or so. At the request of the Administration, we are going to, well, going back one second, looking at the minutes from the November 1, 2023 meeting.

The minutes of the November 1, 2023 meeting were considered. Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to accept the minutes; Mrs. Ghantous seconded. The minutes were approved with six affirmative votes (Mr. Vanover was absent)

Special Presentations and Resolutions

Vice President Hawkins: At the request of the Administration, we are going to do Resolution No. R17-2023 first.

Resolution No. R17-2023

COMMENDING KATHY MCNEAR FOR HER DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R17-2023; Mrs. Ghantous seconded.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Kathy McNear, I've known you for much of my life, and, I think you're a very, very special person. I think you know that, and I think that you have done awesome by this City, you have done great in your job. You've always been financially responsible with our City's money and keeping us apprised as to what's happening, and I appreciate everything that you've done from the time you were 15 until whenever you're finished with us. Thank you so much for all of your time and dedication.

Mrs. McNear: Thank you Meghan (Sullivan-Wisecup).

Mayor Webster: I remember this 15 year old basket girl and later front office personnel as a young teenager down there. I watched her grow up and knew her family very, very well; still do to this day. And, have been privileged to consider her and her family some of our closest friends in the City of Springdale. And, she's been a very active supporter of mine, and likewise, we've been very active supporters of hers over the years, and, Kathy (McNear) it's not going to be the same without you here, and I'd like to think that maybe it won't be the same without me either, but, anyway, I'm sure the City is well equipped to carry on without the two of us, but, we can sit back and watch and throw stones if things don't go right. But, anyway, thank you very much for all your years of service and your sacrifices. Believe me, I know what it takes.

Mrs. McNear: Thank you.

Mayor Webster: Good luck to you.

Vice President Hawkins: And, thank you for all the time that's been spent, the sacrifice of taking time away from family. For me, for the last 20 years since when I started on Planning Commission, there have been several folks that have been role models, and you've been one of those individuals in terms of the way you conduct business and conduct yourself as an elected official. So, I appreciate that. Also, appreciate every year how you remind us to turn in our financials (laughter), So, I don't know, you're going to have to come back and remind us for that too even when you're gone.

City of Springdale Council

November 15, 2023

Mrs. McNear: You'll get my email.

Vice President Hawkins: We appreciate you. I know that if President Vanover was here, he would tell you "A tip of the hat".

Mrs. McNear: Thank you.

Resolution No. R17-2023 passes with six affirmative votes. (President Vanover was absent)

Mrs. McNear: I did type up some things, because 30 years, I'll go back 50 years, there's a lot of things to cover, so I wrote it down so I wouldn't forget a couple of things here. First off, it's been an honor and a privilege to serve the residents of the City of Springdale for the past 30 years as an elected official and also as an employee, a volunteer, a coach, Council committee member since 1972. And volunteering was a means to pay forward to the City for all the City has given to me, and it's been a lot since hiring me as a 15 year old. The job has taught me a work ethic, customer service skills, problem solving, team building, and leadership just to name a few. We've seen a lot of changes, expansion, and automation over the years, and, at one time, all of our minutes were handwritten on onion skin paper, and a lot of people in the room may not even know what that is, so, I asked Nicole (Browder) to pull a copy and you can probably even see me through this. This is what onion skin paper is, and, at one time, they were even handwritten. And this one is actually typed. But, we've gone from that to everything is automated, or will come through the system. Same thing with our financials. At one time, it was all handwritten on ledger paper. So, those are big changes. So, a lot of changes until we got to the point that we could eliminate this position and save some money. Then, we've also had a lot of ups and downs financially in this City, and just like we do in our own homes; can't afford it this year, we put it off until next year. And that's the way you have to run a City. I also wanted to thank the Mayor, the Councilmembers, city Administrators, our Department Directors, our support staff, and the expert advisors we have; our attorneys, our planners, our engineers who I've worked with within the past 30 years as well as all the residents who elected me as Clerk of Council/Finance Director and Council member multiple times. And, also thanks goes to my husband for supporting my need to service the community and picking up a lot of the extras to care for our sons when they were young because I was gone to meetings, or on the campaign trail. And, thanks to my sons Jake and Austin for understanding why mom couldn't always be at their ballgames, or their concerts, or other events, not to mention the paper cuts they got from rolling hundreds of campaign flyers. Thanks to my grandkids who didn't understand why "Grandy" had to leave them with "Pa Jim" early to go to a meeting. But, they understand that tonight is the last Council meeting ever, and I'm trading in my business laptop for a backpack that holds a lot of drink boxes and snacks, and whatever paraphernalia we need for our next adventure. So, in closing, I've enjoyed my time with the City. I believe we all hope that we leave a small imprint of improvement when we devote so much time to an endeavor, but to continue to improve, we have to evolve, and that means change. Most people are change-adverse, but I spent a good part of my career as a change agent in the private sector business world, and I'm ready for the second retirement of my career, and I'm happy for the next chapter. So, I wish Mayor-Elect Hawkins and the new Council, who will be sworn in December 1st the best wishes, and I ask all the residents to offer their support to our new Administration, and, again, thank you very much.

Vice President Hawkins: Thank you. (applause) But, before we move on, Administration has some additional information.

Mr. Jones: Kathy (McNear) specifically asked that we not make a big deal of things for her, that's all I have to say about you. (laughter) However, I would like to call, we have some special guests this evening. We're under some new microphones here. Sorry about that. I feel like I'm getting an echo. Is that better? Okay, our first guest this evening to make a presentation is State Representative Jessica Miranda. (applause)

City of Springdale Council

November 15, 2023

Ms. Miranda: Can you hear me? Well, good evening City of Springdale. I am so honored to be here to honor some great public servants who have given so much time to the City of Springdale, and Kathy (McNear), we're going to start with you. So, I have this wonderful commendation on behalf of the members of the Ohio General Assembly of the 135th General Assembly. This is signed by me, as your State Representative and the Speaker of the House, Jason Stephens, and instead of reading this verbatim,, because, I think you know what this says, I'd like to just speak a little bit more about you and my comments that I have written down for tonight. We are here to honor Kathy McNear as she retires from her current position as City Clerk of Council, and Finance Director, and, enters her new role as full-time professional grandparent, which I was very happy to hear. Her journey started at the age of 15 years old, and I'm not going to repeat all of this, because you've already heard this from Mayor-Elect (Hawkins), but, I just want to say your legacy, the numerous improvements that have happened here in the City of Springdale with you at the helm, the residents, myself, as your State Representative, we are very appreciative of everything you have given to the City of Springdale. This is oftentimes a thankless job, and, so, I'm here tonight not only to honor you from the Ohio Statehouse, but to thank you for your years of service and what you have given to this City. So, with that, I hope you enjoy your retirement with your husband Jim, your new role as grandmother, I want to thank you for your sincere dedication that is evident in your continued support to this City and the residents of Springdale, and it is with sincere gratitude that I say, "Kathy, thank you so very much." And, I hope and wish you a full retirement and everything that your heart desires. You deserve relaxation and rest, and take care of those grandbabies, and don't be a stranger. (applause)

Mr. Jones: Up next, we have our Southwest Ohio Regional Liaison, Derek Chancellor of the Governor's Office.

Mr. Chancellor: Hi Kathy.

Mrs. McNear: Hello, how are you?

Mr. Chancellor: Good. I'm Derek Chancellor. I'm the Southwest Regional for Lieutenant Governor Jon Husted, and I have a commendation here from Governor DeWine, and Lieutenant Govern Husted. So, I will just read it quickly here; I understand we still have the rest of the meeting here.

"On behalf of the State of Ohio we sincerely thank and commend you for your 51 years of dedicated service to the City of Springdale. Including, 13 years on City Council, and four terms of Clerk of Council and Finance Director. Your commitment and dedication to making a positive difference have made your community, our region, and the State of Ohio a better place to live, work and raise a family.

We recognize you for your many years of selfless public service, and we wish you the best in a well-deserved retirement."

Thank you for your many years of service and it was interesting to learn about all the technological advances that the City has seen during your time here, but, it sounds like you had quite an impact. So, I'm honored to be here on behalf of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor today to recognize you, so, thank you.

Mrs. McNear: Thank you. (applause)

Mr. Jones: Mr. President, I have one more guest speaker/presenter for Kathy. It's Field Representative Michael Robinson from Congressman Warren Davidson's office.

City of Springdale Council

November 15, 2023

Mr. Robinson: Good Evening. My voice, I'm losing my voice a little bit, and my wife thinks it's fantastic (laughter), but I do apologize for my voice tonight. But, I do have a letter from the Congressman who is in (Washington) D.C. But, he wrote,

"Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement." Serving the Community of Springdale for the past 51 years is something you should be extremely proud of. I didn't have the pleasure of getting to work with you, but, in speaking with your colleagues, it is clear you have that 'jack of all trades' mentality. You clearly have a passion for service and giving back, whether that was volunteering for committees, boards, coaching soccer, or whatever else was needed. We certainly could use more folks like that these days. I also noticed that you were a member of the history book committee. I've always loved history, and believe that we need to cherish and be proud of our history. You are, and always will be, a part of the legacy of the City of Springdale. I regret that I'm not able to attend in your celebration and recognize you in person, but I'm confident they'll give you the appropriate send off. I wish you nothing but the best, to you and your husband Jim, and your entire family. Please don't hesitate to reach out should you need anything, and best of luck in your new role as a full time grandparent. Congratulations."

Mrs. McNear: Thank you so much. (applause)

Resolution No. R16-2023

COMMENDING DOYLE H. WEBSTER FOR HIS DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R16-2023; Mrs. Ghantous seconded.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Hi Mayor Webster. I feel like I've seen you so much these last couple of days.

Mayor Webster: It's better than what you called me last night.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I called him "Lavonne Webster's husband", because for the past 52 years, Lavonne has been Mayor Webster's wife. I thought it would be interesting if I called him, "Lavonne Webster's husband" just one time to see how he liked it. I've known you pretty much my entire life. We have not always seen eye to eye, but we've always had the respect of each other, and that is something that I value more than if you're on the same team as me or not is that we can still, at the end of the day, respect each other as people. And, that was something I've always valued in you and I've told you that many times. I'm going to tell a story about Becca and you. When we first moved to Springdale, we bought a house across the creek from my parents. And, my daughter was always wearing dresses and pretty shoes; all the time. My parents lived on the other side of the creek from us, so we would cross the creek and she'd get her shoes wet all the time. And then, one day, out of nowhere, there was a bridge built across the creek so that the City workers could get the mowers back to City property to mow that's by my parent's house. Well, my daughter was just convinced that Mayor Webster had this bridge built so that she wouldn't get her shoes wet when she walked over to her meemaw's and papaw's house. So, when she said, "Did you build that bridge so that I wouldn't get my shoes wet?" He said, "Yep." She said, "Thank you Mayor Webster!". I just thought that was the cutest thing ever. It's been a joy to serve with you. I want to thank you for putting me on Commissions long before I was ever on here, and believed in me, and making me love Springdale even more than I already did.

Mayor Webster: Thank you very much.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Thank you for your time and all of your years of dedication. Thanks.

City of Springdale Council

November 15, 2023

Mrs. McNear: How does one sum up the 52 year career of Mayor Webster that spans 52 years of leadership to the City? The highlight film would be a double feature. The first time I heard the name, "Doyle Webster" was in 1971 when he ran against the incumbent Clerk of Council who was my trigonometry teacher at Princeton High School, and Doyle Webster won. When the Rec Center opened in 1972, I was 15 years old and was hired to work there. The first time I saw the Webster's, they were walking up the pathway to the Rec Center, and I looked at them in awe because they were Springdale royalty. Mayor Webster devoted his life to the City. It was a variety of Community Service opportunities and he participated may it be coaching, fundraising, non-profit charities, partnerships with Princeton City Schools. It was a calling, and intense dedication and avocation. What do any of us sustain for 52 years besides faith and breathing? A few lucky people can sustain a marriage that long, and he has done that too. With the level of dedication to one cause for over half a century is beyond the expectation and imagination for most people. He did this in addition to his banking and financial career which he retired from twice. Today, we honor him and celebrate his retirement number three. The number of retirements is getting up there with rock stars and professional athletes. I know the Mayor will tell you that he couldn't have done all of this without his family. No one in office that I know would disagree with that statement due to the commitment and sacrifice the family makes to support elected officials responsibilities. The families are typically in the background, but they must adjust to having their spouse/parent absent for birthdays, anniversaries, ball games, concerts, rearranging vacations around the many scheduled meetings. I'm not going to highlight any specific accomplishments because there isn't any area of this City that the Mayor hasn't been involved in in over 52 years. I will express to him for myself and the residents who reelected him continuously, thank you for a job well done. You're undying love for this City, commitment to making Springdale a great place to live, work, learn and play. Congratulations on your retirement, and again, thank you.

Mayor Webster: Thank you very much.

Mrs. McNear: You're welcome. (applause)

Vice President Hawkins: Mayor Webster, if I may, your massive contribution to this City and the sacrifices that your wife and your daughter have made going along through this process is immeasurable. You have left an indelible mark on this City, you have done so geographically, structurally, economically, but, most of all, personally with the number of individuals whose lives you've touched, be it through SOS (Springdale Offering Support), be it through folks who have been employees for the City, and be it through individuals that have been appointed on Boards and Commissions over the years. There are many, many people on this dais, and in this room, myself included, who you put on a Board or a Commission to get things started. As I recall this story, you had indicated that when I ran for School Board and I was probably 24 or 25; didn't know much of anything. But, I think Julie (Matheny) had gone to one of the candidate nights and came back to you and said, "That Hawkins kid might be okay. You might want to check him out in a few years." And, a few years later, you put me on Planning Commission. But, you've impacted a lot of lives, and that's the thing that's huge and it's going to be remembered forever. So, thank you, and we appreciate you.

Mayor Webster: Thank you very much. I really appreciate it.

Mr. Jones: I'd like to call State Representative Jessica Miranda back up.

Ms. Miranda: Alright. Mayor Webster, after listening to all of these wonderful comments about you, this is going to be hard for me to get through this without getting emotional. But, I've also had a day in Columbus, so, I'm just an emotional wreck anyways. Sorry I couldn't be at your luncheon earlier today. I was on the floor placing votes and actually passed a bill today on behalf of the people of the great 28, who I'm so humbled to serve every day. But, my good friend, Mayor Webster, you are a shining example of what a true public servant is. I say that with every fiber of my being. I'll never forget the first time I met you, and, I didn't have such a great conversation with Lavonne. Lavonne actually hung up on me, but, I had a great conversation with you and you gave me a chance because you and I do not sit on the same side of the aisle, but I think that is the most beautiful thing about public service is where you can find common ground to serve the greater good of the people that you're elected to represent. And so, thank you for being a mentor to me and so many others, and for leading

City of Springdale Council

November 15, 2023

Ms. Miranda (continued): this City through such a dark time when we lost Officer Grant. That is something I will never forget, you and the Chief (Wells) for ushering us through what was a very, very difficult time for this City and our district. I would be remiss, of course, if I didn't mention the strong support of his wife of 64 years, Lavonne Webster, and his daughter Julie who carries on the family legacy by being very engaged in the community at large, and for that, I'm very appreciative. I can attest, myself, that a strong supportive family is so important for the life of a public servant, and Mayor Webster has no shortage of that. You got your start in public service by stepping up to the plate quite literally as a softball coach for a softball team, and it led to you doing so many wonderful things here in the City of Springdale, and I think that is a tribute to what can be accomplished when you continually put the people first. You're also an avid fan of the Cincinnati Reds, so I'm looking forward to seeing many, many pictures of you and Lavonne enjoying much deserved retirement at Great American Ball Park and everywhere else as well. Outside of your career of public service, you worked in the financial industry and brought that knowledge here to the City of Springdale, which we will be forever grateful, so, thank you for that. It's safe to say that you're an exemplary husband, father, and citizen who has proven your excellence and dedication at every turn. Congratulations on your distinguished career, and I wish you the most peaceful retirement. I will miss you, but, please, do not be a stranger. And, I'm looking forward to being able to still hug you every time I see you. So, on behalf of the 135th General Assembly, this is your official State House commendation signed by me, your proud State Representative and the Ohio House Speaker, Jason Stephens. I'm going to give this to you, but I'm also have this second one that I want to bestow upon you tonight because this is part of your legacy leading this City. This is a commendation to congratulate the City of Springdale for your latest achievement which is the Best Comprehensive Plan for Small Jurisdictions Award from the American Planning Association for 2023.

Mayor Webster: Oh, well, great, thanks. Super.

Ms. Miranda: So, congratulations to you, the entire City, and your Administration for racking up so many of these that I get to author and bring down here and present to you. This is proof positive that what has been happening here in Springdale for the last 52 years is the right thing for the people of the City of Springdale, and I just want to say to you and the rest of the folks sitting on the dais, and the folks in the audience, that, you know, we spend this time honoring the folks who have come before us, and served for so many decades, and this shouldn't be a sad time or a thing to be looked negatively upon. We're just turning the leaf in Springdale, ushering in the new generation of leadership, and folks like you, Mayor Webster, and Kathy (McNear) and others, will always be remembered for everything that you have given this great City. So, thank you so much.

Mayor Webster: Thank you very much.

Ms. Miranda: Congratulations. (applause)

Mayor Webster: Thank you very much. I really appreciate it.

Mr. Jones: Mr. President, I'm going to continue. Thank you State Representative Miranda. We're going on next with Southwest Ohio Regional Liaison, Derek Chancellor.

Mr. Chancellor: Mayor Webster, it's great to learn about your careers, and I guess you got one year on Kathy (McNear) right? Total years of public service, 52 years and 51, is that why you came out of retirement those few times? (laughter) I've got a commendation here from Governor DeWine and Lieutenant Governor Husted.

Mayor Doyle Webster, on behalf of the State of Ohio, we sincerely thank and commend you for your 52 years of dedicated service to the City of Springdale, including 28 years as Mayor, and 24 years as Clerk of Council and Finance Director. Your commitment and dedication to making a positive difference on your Community have made our region and the State of Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family. We recognize you for your many years of selfless public service, and wish you all the best and a well-deserved retirement with your wife of 64 years, Lavonne, and your daughter Julie.

Thank you for your many years of service.

City of Springdale Council

November 15, 2023

Mayor Webster: Thank you very much. (applause)

Mr. Jones: Up next is Field Representative Michael Robinson from Congressman Warren Davidson's office.

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Mayor, how are you tonight? As I have before, the Congressman sent a letter and I'll read it.

Mayor Webster, Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement. Serving the Community for the past 52 years is an amazing accomplishment. When we met in early September, I could immediately tell that you had earned everyone's respect, and rightfully so. Starting in 1971, as Clerk of Council and Finance Director, and then moving on over to Mayor in 1995. I'd imagine there's not much you haven't come across in your career. I truly enjoyed our conversation and quickly realized you're a "tell it like it is" kind of guy. I respect that and wish we had gotten to work together longer. I regret that I won't be able to attend your celebration and recognize you in person, but I'm confident that dedicated staff, family, and many friends will show our immense appreciation for all you have done. I wish nothing but the best to you, your wife Lavonne, and your entire family. Please don't hesitate to reach out should you need anything, even after leaving office. You will always be a big part of the proud history of the City of Springdale.

On a personal note, I've heard a lot about the word "service" tonight. And, if I can say a little dirty word in Council presence here, "politician". That's one of the most negative terms there is, and, unfortunately, a lot of people, if you're an elected official, they'll call all elected officials either "politician", or they'll call all elected officials "public servant", and, it depends on their viewpoint, but, really, someone like you who has dedicated the vast majority of your life to being a public servant, there's no doubt that that's in your DNA; that's in your blood is to serve and give back. And, you should be commended for that. So, that's fantastic. Congratulations again. We wish you the best and enjoy your retirement.

Mayor Webster: Thank you very much. (applause)

Resolution No. R16-2023 passes with six affirmative votes.

Mr. Braun: Staff is going to ask Council to add Resolution No. R18-2023 to the agenda. I'll allow Mrs. McNear to read it by title and then you can consider adding it to the agenda.

Mrs. McNear: By title?

Resolution No. R18-2023

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING WEBSTER WAY IN THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I'd like to add Resolution No. R18-2023 to the agenda for this evening.

Mrs. Ghantous: I'll second that.

Motion to add Resolution No. R18-2023 to the agenda passes with six affirmative votes.

Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R18-2023; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Mr. Jones: So, we have a history here of naming streets after those who have served in our community, Mayor Neuss, Mayor Norrish, City Administrator Osborne, are some of the folks. Mayor Webster is the seventh Mayor to serve our City. He has served since December 1, 1995 for 28 years. As has been said many times, 24 years also as Clerk of Council/Finance Director. We may never have another person serve 52 years; that's a lot. It's hard to get elected over and over and it's difficult to serve 52 years. I personally don't know a single person that's ever served that long. Mayor Webster is a straight shooter. Sometimes that can ruffle feathers. From an Administrator's point of view, and from the Administration's point of view, that helps us.

City of Springdale Council

November 15, 2023

Mr. Jones (continued): We always know where he's coming from, and we appreciate it when elected officials are that way with us. It may not be popular, but it's the way we like it, and we've grown to expect that. We've always known where the Mayor's coming from. He makes his points clear. I've been in government myself for 39 years, and, I've realized that you cannot always make people happy. It's not a popularity contest, and I guarantee I've ruffled some feathers myself over the years. That aside, I appreciate the presentations and the recognition that we received, and you folks taking the time out of your busy schedules to be here for both the Mayor and Mrs. McNear. It's very appreciative. On behalf of our Administration, we feel that it's well deserved that our Mayor of 28 years and his dedicated service over 52 years, that we, as an Administration, are respectfully requesting that this Council name the identified portion of Walnut Street to "Webster Way". We think that this would be a small token of gratitude and appreciation for his half-century of commitment to this Community. Thank you.

Resolution No. R18-2023 passes with six affirmative votes.

Mayor Webster: Is this on? Can you hear me?

Vice President Hawkins: Yes sir.

Mr. Jones: I'm sorry. It's not your turn yet. (laughter) We'll get to you in a second. Council thank you from the bottom of my heart. Thank you. I know that our Administration is so appreciative of this. We were certainly hoping that would happen tonight, but, we never want to be so presumptuous that we take things for granted. But, we were kind of hoping that you would go along with it, and, (presents street sign that says 'Webster Way').

Mayor Webster: Now, is it my turn to talk?

Mr. Jones: It is your honor.

Mayor Webster: Okay. Alright, I'm not sure where to start, except to say from the bottom of my heart I can say that this has been 52 years of a labor of love. If I hadn't enjoyed what I was doing, I would have gotten out of this business a long, long time ago. But, I enjoyed serving the people of this City, enjoyed trying to solve their problems, didn't enjoy it when they called with a problem and I couldn't help them, but that's just part of the business, you be respectful, and go on to the next problem. You know, I shared a comment last Veteran's Day. I'm not sure even where I read this, but, it goes something like this. "What you do when you're living for yourself, dies when you die. But, what you do for other people, lives for eternity". And, I would hope in some small way I've done some things for this City that will live on into eternity. Now, I should just shut up and just go on with the meeting, but I'm never one to be short for words, so, just let me say, and I'm sure I'm going to leave some people out here, and I apologize to them before I start, but I would like to thank John (Jones) and Brian (Uhl) for orchestrating all of today's events. Since 11:00 today, it's just been one pleasant surprise after another one. I had a great luncheon for two and a half hours down at the Rec Center, midway through the luncheon, my family and I were called out to the rotunda, if you will, and so we're all lined up against the wall, and it looks like we're going to take a picture, and I figured this was a strange way to take a picture and line people up single file. Well, they said, "We all want you to turn around look at the doorway". Well, while we were in the luncheon, they had renamed that wing of the building where the club rooms are and the senior lounge, "Doyle Webster Meeting Area" or something to that effect. Well, you know, I made a pledge to myself before I went down there today that I said, "I'm not going to cry. No tears are going to be shed from me today. It's too happy of a day." Well, that's the closest I came when I turned around and saw that up there. Then, we go back to the room, and sure enough, there's a plaque on the doorway, on all three of the club rooms, "Doyle Webster Club Room A, B, C" and so forth. So, I did jerk a little tear there, I have to admit, so, anyway, I can't thank these guys enough. The person, let's see, where is she? Nicole (Browder), this young lady took care of the day's events down at the Community Center. Did an absolute marvelous job. I think everybody commented on the way it was handled, the message board, everything was just perfect and so John (Jones) told me he said, "I delegated that to Nicole and she took it from there." So, you did a marvelous job so I wanted to say, "Thank you very much Nicole", Nicole Browder, one of our Administrative Assistants and I can't say enough. One of my philosophies, I know you didn't

City of Springdale Council

November 15, 2023

Mayor Webster (continued): ask to hear this, but, you guys are going to hear it anyway. One of my philosophies in life as a manager, is that you hire the best people you can get, but the first prerequisite, you only talk and hire people that are smarter than yourself. Because I don't want a manager working for me that's not smarter than I am. So, you hire smart people, you train them, you give them the materials and equipment they need to do their job, then the very most important thing is you get the hell out of their way, and you let them do their thing. And that's exactly what I've done with this City for 52 years, and the accomplishments that we've talked about today, and listed here, yes, I get credit for them, but believe me, I didn't do these things. You all know that. SOS (Springdale Offering Support), we've done marvelous things with SOS. I haven't done that. But, I've got some smart, hard-working people that have accomplished that. And, the same way here. The row of people in the back row here, this is the backbone of the City. These are hard-working, dedicated, smart people that do their job, and do it well. And, they make us all proud to live in the City of Springdale. So, anyway, all I can say is thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you. Now, in my 52 years as a public official and 28 of those as Mayor, I've had a lot of events that I'm extremely proud of. A lot of things that have happened. First off, 13 elections; I won 13 of them. I think that's something to be very proud of. But, last Tuesday, on November 7th, we had an 83 year old woman that threw her hat in the political ring for the first time in her career, and she won. And, that lady happens to be my bride of 64 years, Lavonne L Webster, and I'm so proud of her. (applause) That's one of my proudest moments and I can now say that we as a family are 14-0, so, thank you very much. You know I really think that's the end of my comments. I did not have anything as eloquently prepared as Mrs. McNear, but, I just wanted to speak from the heart here a few minutes, and I appreciate your attention, and I appreciate all you guys coming out, I mean, I've said this many times, the only time we get this many people in City Council is if we're going to raise taxes, or we're going to build a sidewalk in somebody's front yard, and then people come out. And, so, I appreciate all of you coming out tonight. Thank you very much for your dedication and helping me be successful in 52 years. Thank you. (applause)

Mr. Jones: It's going to take a little time getting used to these new systems. I know that some of our special guests, and we're so grateful that you folks were here tonight. We know that you need to get going, and, you should not feel bad about getting up and doing that at your convenience because our meeting is going to carry on, but, I wanted to tell you how much we appreciated you being here.

Mayor Webster: Thank you very much.

Committee and Official Reports

Civil Service Commission

Mr. Coleman: Good evening Council, Mr. President, Mr. Mayor-Elect. We have for the Civil Service Commission, we did meet on November 2nd and all members were present. Minutes were approved from the previous meeting. I'll somewhat curtail the report this evening as there's been a lot of activity and a lot of commendations for the individuals so deserving. So, again, appreciate having served my time with Mayor Webster, and with Mrs. McNear also. So, as far as the Civil Service Commission report, the following hiring processes are still active, Building Department Administrative Assistant, Firefighter II/EMT, and Firefighter II/Paramedic, Fleet Mechanic, Patrol Officer, Police Clerk, Public Works Maintenance, and Account Clerk I as well. I commend Mr. Uhl and Ms. Morgan for their efforts in juggling all of these different hiring processes as they seem to be never-ending and ongoing. So again, I certainly thank you on behalf of the Civil Service Commission for your efforts. I don't know how they keep track of all of this, but, they bring it to Civil Service, and we manage to work our way through it. Also, the hiring process has commenced for the Public Health Nurse position. The Public Health Nurse job description has been revised to reflect the responsibility as a Director of Nursing. We think this is a step in the right direction as the responsibilities continue to increase for that position. I think that's all that I had for this evening, and thank you for your attention. Any questions? I'd be happy to answer them.

Vice President Hawkins: Seeing none, thank you Mr. Coleman.

City of Springdale Council

November 15, 2023

Rules and Laws	Mrs. Ghantous	-	No report
Finance Committee	Mr. Hawkins	-	No report

Planning Commission

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Planning Commission met last night, and everyone was present. We had two different companies before us, but three different things. The first one was Wawa for a Minor Modification to a Development Plan. We were basically approving the building colors and those were approved 7-0 and they said that they will start building around January, and that in June and July, they'll go vertical, and then it will take about six months past that before they're expecting to open if everything goes well with the build. Our second piece of business was Chick-fil-A, and they had a parking lot expansion, and they also had a modification. There was two different things; the first thing was a Zone Change, and that was to change from "SS" to a "PUD". They had purchased the strip in front of and on the side of like the grass around Chick-fil-A, and that was "SS", that's the zoning that's "SS" right now, and, we are recommending that when it comes before Council, next month, that it be approved as a PUD to put it all into one with the Chick-fil-A parcel so it's all under the same PUD. The second thing that we did was a PUD Modification, and that will come before us next month, so we will be looking for that to come next month with all the information. And, there were a lot of things that we talked about the, because, when you get it next month, you'll see that since they purchased that grass, it's a little closer to Kemper than it is currently, and, so, there was a lot of talk about the canopy lighting, and they are going to be getting with the City and going through different things to make sure that that is what is wanted and what is needed for that area because right now they have it very, very bright, and they're very close to the road, so, we're trying to work with them to figure that out. That was all that we had. And, that passed with a 7-0 vote, and we will see that next month. And, that's all that I have unless you have anything to add (addressing Joe Ramirez).

Mr. Ramirez: No. Sounds complete.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Thank you.

Board of Zoning Appeals

Mrs. Ghantous: Board of Zoning Appeals met on Tuesday, October 24th. We had six members present. We had two items on the agenda. The owner of 715 Allen Avenue was requesting a 29 foot front yard setback variance of Zoning Code Section 153.252, Table 252-2, to add a front porch cover which requires the front yard setback to be 35 feet from the property line. And, after much discussion, we voted on that and it was passed with a 4-0 vote. The next item was Chase Bank, 11745 Princeton Pike. They were unable to attend the meeting, so we voted to table that until the next meeting. Jeff (Anderson), anything I forgot?

Mr. Anderson: Sounds perfect.

Mrs. Ghantous: We're good. Thank you. That concludes my report.

Board of Health

Mr. Jacobs: The Board of Health met on November 9th. The meeting was full of a lot of transition. As we heard from Mr. Coleman's report, Nurse Ellis is moving on to other opportunities so there were a lot of goodbyes in addition to the Mayor serving in his last position as the Chairman of that Board. It was a pleasure to serve with you on the Board of Health, even though I'm just really filling a chair in there. (Addressing Mayor Webster)

Mayor Webster: Thank you.

Mr. Jacobs: So there's a lot of transition. We're also losing the service of Carol Quinlan-Hall. She's retiring from the Board of Health. In terms of actual decisions made, there was just the procedural vote on three resolutions to update fee schedules for hotels, food vendors, and swimming pools, and those were all approved. In terms of COVID, there's a continued decline after a bit of a spike in the fall which most people expected. Really that's about all there was of substance, unless there are any questions.

City of Springdale Council

November 15, 2023

Capital Improvements

Mrs. Ghantous

-

No report

O-K-I

Mr. Anderson: The OKI Executive Board met on November 9th. There's one item I wanted to share with the group that came out of it. There was a presentation with a lot of discussion about the carbon reduction program. This is the same program that I mentioned at our last meeting that was brought up that through OKI there's federal funding that is set up. They gave more details on it. It provides up to \$1 million dollars per application for Ohio jurisdictions. Each jurisdiction can submit up to three applications. This is a program that is specifically set up to allow publicly owned parking lots or other structures to establish or create install electrical hook ups for EV vehicles. These are the DC (Direct Current) Fast Charging (FC) equipment, the Level 2 charging equipment is also eligible. The really neat thing about this program is that it doesn't even have a local match assigned to it. So, it's an opportunity for jurisdictions to find and install some of this EV charging equipment in places that they wouldn't normally be able to put in, so even in public garages, things like that, the rules are different. They're being administered differently, so if we haven't looked into it yet, I would encourage us to do that to see if there's opportunity to get some of that funding. They were pushing it pretty hard that they're hoping to get a lot of applications because they've got the money and they want to spend it to start getting that infrastructure built out. The deadline for those applications is February 1, 2024 at 4:00 p.m., and I think it's a great opportunity to install some chargers wherever we can get them. Other than that, there was minor updates on the Metropolitan Plan, and minor updates to the TIP (Transportation Improvement Plan), which is where money gets assigned. There are a couple of programs added for street car and other byways that were added. That's it, unless there's any questions. I'm still used to reflexively looking to push my button off. I'm not the only one doing that, right?

Mayor's Report

Mayor Webster: Mr. Anderson, I'm surprised you didn't mention the \$4 million dollars that you got for us down at OKI for the intersection of Northland Boulevard and Kemper Road.

Mr. Anderson: That was approved at last month's meeting. We talked about it at the last meeting.

Mayor Webster: We just got the letter today to make it official, but, we're getting \$4,078,825 million dollars for that improvement. That's a 2027 project and I was just reviewing the numbers with Mr. Agricola before the meeting. That's about a \$6 million dollar project. We're on the hook for 20% of it. But, this \$4,000,000 million dollar grant that we got from OKI will go towards the construction cost of that project. So, we're very happy to have that, so, we've got four years to try to come up with our \$2,000,000 million dollar share of that, so, I think that we'll kick some tires and find a way to fund that some way or another, or, somebody else's money hopefully. Okay, the other thing I'd like to talk about a little bit, and this is my final SOS plea to the community. This is an organization we started, I believe in 2008. We've helped probably 1,000 families over the years, and our goal is to have 100 families again this year during the Christmas holidays. Last year, we made that goal. We helped 100 families, and 375 children. We had several kids that got to Shop with a Cop, and so forth, and so on, and so, we do this with donations that we get from the community, and so that's the plea I'm making tonight is if you'll just see your way clear to adopt a family for us. We've already got our 100 families that have applied for aid for the Christmas holiday. We've only got 30 sponsor families, so, we're looking for 70 families and now last year, at this time, in total, we had about 60 sponsors, so, we're halfway to where we were last year. So, if you could see your way to open up your heart, your pocketbook, and help us out, we'd certainly appreciate it. We've got several businesses that have pledged some support, so, I think we're going to have a successful season, but, we can sure use your support. And, as I indicated, this will be my last plea for help as Mayor. I'm hoping that Mr. Hawkins will take up the call and he'll be trying to pick your pockets going forward instead of me, but anyway, I'll still be very actively involved in the charity, and, so will the City staff, so I think that's what's really made this a "Springdale", it's not a "Doyle Webster" project. This is a Springdale City project, and I think it shows. And we need to turn out and help these families and these children. So, our Vendor Village, which I've given you updates on before. We have spots for 42 vendors, we think we're almost full. We may have one or two slots left, but that thing has really filled up and we're looking forward to it. That's going to go on until 3:00 in the afternoon. We'll have a food truck there for somebody that wants

City of Springdale Council

November 15, 2023

Mayor Webster (continued): to grab some lunch and so forth, so, we're looking forward to December 2nd, a very festive day starting off with the 5k walk/run, and hopefully, the weatherman cooperates with us. And, I think that concludes my report. When I was giving all my thank yous, I don't specifically remember thanking the two young ladies sitting right here in the second row; my family. I could never have survived 52 years in this job without my wife and daughter. So, thank you ladies. That concludes my report.

Vice President Hawkins: Thank you Mayor Webster.

Clerk of Council/Finance Director Mrs. McNear - No report

Administrator's Report

Mr. Jones: I have a few things here. Let me start with Kathy, I hope that you appreciated us not making a big deal out of your retirement.

Mrs. McNear: Way to go.

Mr. Jones: Really grateful that they committed early on that they would be here and present and they followed through with it and it really is appreciated. On behalf of the Administration, we want to thank Councilwoman Carolyn Ghantous, Councilman Lawrence Hawkins, and Councilman Joe Ramirez for your willingness to serve our Council. You have done a great job. We appreciate the many years of service that you've provided to us, and, I have never witnessed anything but professionalism from all of you, and I wanted to thank you for your service to Council. It's been a pleasure working with you. Also, want to congratulate our new Mayor-Elect, Lawrence Hawkins. Also, Councilwoman Michelle McFarland, Councilwoman Lavonne Webster, and Councilman David Gleaves. They'll begin their new roles up here on the dais on December 1st. I want to conclude tonight with Mayor Webster. On behalf of our Administration, we collectively appreciate your faithful years of service to our Community, the ability to conduct business with you in the no-nonsense approach has been so much appreciated. Brian (Uhl), this thing is about to drive me crazy, and that's a short drive. That better? Hopefully. So, I was saying that Mayor, your no-nonsense approach for us, Jeff Agricola and I were talking about that again today. It just makes it simple and easy for us. We always know where we are with things, and it really helps with that process. You're willing to listen to us, and our recommendations. Even if you don't agree with us, you listen to us, and your insight and wisdom over 50 years that you've gathered has been highly valuable to us and we're very appreciative. Just want you to think about this a second. Fifty two years. So, that means that's a lot of time, I think, Vice President Hawkins mentioned earlier that's a lot of time away from your family and doing things that you want to be doing. Fifty two years, two times a month, that's 1,352 meetings. I want you to think about that a minute. Thirteen hundred and fifty two meetings. Gonna miss you up here on the dais. Thank you Mr. President.

Law Director's Report

Mr. Braun: I usually don't have a report because most of what I do is in the background. However, I did want to take a moment tonight to thank Mrs. Ghantous and Mr. Ramirez. I truly enjoyed serving with both of you on the committee, particularly Mrs. Ghantous on the Rules and Laws. You were always prepared for the meetings and very insightful, and I don't think people realize that serving as a member of Council, when you make a rule, or you make a law, it impacts every single person in the Community, and you always had that in your heart and thought about that when we had our meetings. Mr. Ramirez who often gave the report for Planning and attended all those meetings, always knew the information, was prepared and it makes such a difference, so I wanted to thank both of you for your service to the City. I also wanted to announce to you that tomorrow I have the opportunity to conduct the new councilmember training for the three new members of Council, and I'll be updating them on public record laws, open meeting laws, and ethics laws, and they'll begin their career. But, again, thank you for your service.

City of Springdale Council

November 15, 2023

Mayor Webster: I just wanted to correct Mr. Jones' math a little bit. He had no way of knowing this, but, for the first three or four years that I was on Council, and I was Finance Director, we met every single week. Every single Wednesday we met down above the firehouse on Grandin Avenue where the Waffle House is, and I'm saying we, I'm talking about three and four hour meetings. There was no short meetings, but it was the formative years of the City, and it was responsible for what you see today in this City. It really was. And, it was a lot of pleasant memories, but no offense John, but your math was a little off. (laughter)

Engineer's Report

Mr. Riggs: So, we're moving along with the Northland Boulevard Project. We're still in the "right-of-way" process. We have our next progress meeting on the 17th, so, Friday. We're working to get final plans submitted over to ODOT (Ohio Department of Transportation) by the December 8th deadline. That's to meet to allow ODOT to go to bid sometime in May. Ideally, that construction will start in July of next year. We also have the Community Center HVAC Replacement Project. The work on the two smaller units is complete. We're still waiting on the larger unit to come in, but, that's expected to arrive some time in February. The Crescentville Road Improvement Project – Route 4 to Route 747; the catch basins work. That's all complete. The spot cover replacements are going to be completed, if not this week, next week. Then, we're going to begin work on concrete entrance apron replacements later this month. The Tri County Parkway Sidewalk Extension Project; we're actually going to submit plans back to Public Works at the end of the week. It's about 90% planned, so there will be a few minor tweaks, but, then we'll begin working with the adjacent property owners on acquiring any rights of entry that we need. There's probably one or two; basically just to tie driveways back in. Then, the new project that was mentioned, the Kemper Northland Intersection Realignment and Kemper Road Shared Use Path Project; the OKI award was officially, the letter was officially received today, and we're looking to have the scoping meeting early next year. That's all I had.

Rental Program Committee Mr. Anderson - No report

Communications - None

Communications from the Audience

Ms. Matheny: Julie Matheny. I'm just here to announce that the Charter Revision Committee will have their annual meeting on Wednesday, December 6th at 6:30 p.m. in one of these meeting rooms out here. And, we have one board member that her term is up. Marci Haungs, and, she is very interested in returning to Charter Revision. Thank you.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 45-2023

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTERS 30 AND 38 AND REPEALING SECTION 94.202 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 45-2023; Mr. Anderson seconded.

Ordinance No. 45-2023 passes with six affirmative votes. (Mr. Vanover was absent)

Ordinance No. 46-2023

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING AND ADOPTING THE 2023 S-26 SUPPLEMENT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 46-2023; Mrs. Ghantous seconded.

Ordinance No. 46-2023 passes with six affirmative votes. (Mr. Vanover was absent)

City of Springdale Council

November 15, 2023

Old Business - None

New Business - None

Meetings and Announcements

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, December 12th at 7:00 p.m. in these chambers.

Mr. Jacobs: The Springdale Board of Health will meet on December 14th adjacent to these chambers.

Mr. Anderson: The Board of Zoning Appeals will meet on November 28th at 7:00 p.m. in these chambers.

Mrs. McNear: Just a final thank you to everybody for a nice evening, and, signing off. Thanks again.

Communications from the Audience - None

Update on legislation still in development

Mr. Hawkins: As you review your Internal Memorandum, Item Number I was addressed with Ordinance No. 46-2023; An Ordinance Enacting and Adopting the 2023 S-26 Supplement to the Code of Ordinances of the City of Springdale, Ohio and Declaring an Emergency. That passed with six affirmative votes. Item Number II was addressed with Ordinance No. 45-2023; An Ordinance Amending Chapters 30 and 38 and Repealing Section 94.202 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Springdale, Ohio. That passed with six affirmative votes. Item Number III was addressed with Resolutions No. R16-2023 and No. R17-2023 Resolutions recognizing Mayor Doyle H. Webster and Clerk of Council/Finance Director Kathy McNear for Their Years of Service to the City of Springdale, both passing with six affirmative votes. We also had Resolution No. R18-2023 A Resolution Establishing Webster Way in the City of Springdale and that also passed with six affirmative votes. All other matters were forthcoming.

Recap of legislative items requested for next Council meeting

Mr. Hawkins: We have several resolutions with regard to Council Appointments, Confirmation of Mayoral Appointments to Various Boards, Commissions, and Committees. We also have Resolutions Recognizing Carolyn Ghantous and Joseph Ramirez for Their Years of Service to the City of Springdale, Ohio. Does anyone have anything else to add with regard to future legislation? (None) With that, I will make my final number 17.

Adjournment

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:
Lawrence C. Hawkins III, Vice President of Council

_____, 2023